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UNITED NATIONS

WORLD CONFERENCE ON NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION

Yokohama, Japan
23-27 May 1994

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Agenda item 7 (b)

CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE CONFERENCE

Report of the Credentials Committee

Chairman: Mr. Pitchayaphant CHARNBHUMIDOL (Thailand)

1. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 23 May 1994, the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, in accordance with rule 4 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, appointed a Credentials Committee based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session, consisting of the following nine members: Austria, Bahamas, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Mauritius, Russian Federation, Thailand and United States of America.

2. The Credentials Committee held one meeting, on 26 May 1994.

3. Mr. Pitchayaphant Charnbhumidol (Thailand) was unanimously elected Chairman of the Committee.

4. The Committee had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General dated 25 May 1994, on the status of credentials of representatives participating in the Conference. Additional information on credentials received by the Secretary-General after the issuance of the memorandum was provided to the Committee by its Secretary.

5. As noted in paragraph 1 of the memorandum of the Secretary-General, as updated by the additional information received, formal credentials issued by the head of State or Government or by the

Minister for Foreign Affairs, as provided for in rule 3 of the rules of procedure, had been received by the Secretary-General for the representatives of the following 45 States participating in the Conference: Algeria, Armenia, Austria, Bolivia, Botswana, Bulgaria, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Holy See, Honduras, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malawi, Maldives, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Morocco, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Swaziland, Thailand, Tonga, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam and Zambia.

6. As noted in paragraph 2 of the memorandum, as updated by the additional information received, information concerning the appointment of representatives participating in the Conference had been communicated by means of facsimile or in the form of letters or notes verbale from ministries, embassies, permanent missions to the United Nations or other government offices or authorities, or through local United Nations offices, by the following 102 States participating in the Conference: Afghanistan, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Cook Islands, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Zaire and Zimbabwe.

7. The Chairman proposed that the Committee should accept the credentials of all the representatives mentioned in the memorandum of the Secretary-General, on the understanding that formal credentials for representatives referred to in paragraph 2 of the Secretary-General's memorandum would be communicated to the Secretary-General as soon as possible. The following draft resolution was proposed by the Chairman for adoption by the Committee:

"The Credentials Committee,

"Having examined the credentials of the representatives to the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the memorandum of the Secretary-General dated 25 May 1994,

"Accepts the credentials of the representatives concerned."

8. Before adopting the draft resolution, the representative of China sought clarification on several points concerning the credentials, which was provided by the Secretary of the Committee.

9. The draft resolution was then adopted by the Committee without a vote.

10. Subsequently, the Chairman proposed that the Committee should recommend to the Conference the adoption of a draft resolution (para. 11 below). This proposal was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

11. In the light of the foregoing, the present report is submitted to the Conference.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

12. The Credentials Committee recommends to the Conference the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"Credentials of representatives to the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction

"The World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction,

"Having considered the report of the Credentials Committee and the recommendation contained therein,

"Approves the report of the Credentials Committee."

10

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Agenda item 9

PROGRAMMES AND POLICIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION

Report of the Main Committee

I. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 23 May 1994, the Conference approved its organization of work as set out in document A/CONF.172/3 and decided to allocate agenda item 9 (a) and (b) entitled "Programmes and policies of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction: (a) Regional reports; (b) Public- and private-sector interface" to the Main Committee.

2. The Main Committee was chaired by H.E. Dr. Omar Dario Cardona (Colombia).

3. The Committee elected Egypt, Nepal, the Russian Federation and the United States of America as Vice-Chairmen, and decided that _____ would also serve as Rapporteur.

II. REGIONAL REPORTS

(Agenda item 9 (a))

4. The Main Committee considered agenda item 9 (a) at its 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 25 and 26 May 1994, and had before it a

document entitled "Reports of regional interest" (A/CONF.172/13 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2).

5. At its 2nd meeting, on 25 May, the Committee heard an introductory statement by Dr. C. de Ville de Goyet, Director for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Relief Coordination of the Pan American Health Organization.

6. The moderator for the panel on the African region, H.E. Mr. Anatole G. Tiendrebeogo, Minister for Environment and Tourism (Burkina Faso), made an introductory statement.

7. Presentations were also made by the following panellists: Professor I. O. Nyambok, President, International Commission for Earth Sciences in Africa (Kenya); Mr. M. S. Boulahya, Director-General, African Centre for Meteorological Applications for Development (Algeria); Professor El Sayed El Bashir, Programme Leader, Locust Research Programme, African Association of Insect Scientists (Kenya); and Dr. Wawa Leba, Director, Department of Economic, Social and Cultural Affairs, Organization of African Unity.

8. The moderator for the panel on the Asian region, Professor Kenzo Toki of the University of Kyoto, and President of the Japan Society for Natural Disaster Reduction, made an introductory statement.

9. Presentations were then made by the following panelists: Mr. Cengiz Ertuna, Chief, Water Resources Management Division, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; Ms. Corazon Alma G. de Leon, Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (Philippines); Mr. Shri K. B. Saxena, Additional Secretary and Central Relief Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture (India) and Ms. Jlang Li, Deputy Director of the Office of China National Committee for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (China).

10. The Honourable Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance of Western Samoa and Chairman of the National Disaster Council, and Mr. Jeremy Collymore, Director, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency, made presentations on the special problems of the small island States of the South Pacific and Caribbean subregions.

11. Mr. Ichiro Ichikawa, Administrative Vice-Minister for the National Land Agency, Japan, made a special presentation on Japanese collaborative projects in Asian countries.

12. At its 3rd meeting, on 26 May, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the moderator for the panel on the European and Mediterranean region, Mr. Edgar Thielmann, Head of Unit, European Community Humanitarian Office.

13. Presentations were then made by the following panelists: Mr. Sergei Shoigu, Minister of the Russian Federation for Civil Defence, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters; Mr. Jean-Pierre Massue, Executive Secretary, EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreements, European Council, with Mr. M. Raimondi of Centro Telerilevamento Mediterraneo Telespazio (CTM), Italy;

and Mr. Juan Pedro Lahore Lacoste-Pedelaborde, Technical Counsellor for International Relations, General Directorate, Civil Protection, Spain, with Mr. Alessandro Barisich, Civil Protection, European Commission.

14. A joint presentation was made by Mr. Harvey C. Ryland, Single Policy Adviser to the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, United States of America, and by Mr. Raul Garcia Leal, General Director of the National System of Civil Protection, Mexico.

15. An introductory statement was made by the moderator for the panel on Latin America, Mr. Stephen Bender, Chief, Natural Hazards Project, Organization of American States.

16. Presentations were then made by the following panelists: Dr. Luis Busco, Chief, Disaster Programme, Ministry of Health, Chile; the Honourable Fernando Guerrero, Deputy to the National Congress, Ecuador; Ms. Norma Zepeda, Director of Training, National Civil Defence, Nicaragua; Dr. Ciro Ugarte, General Director, Office of Disaster Preparedness, Ministry of Health, Peru; Mr. Luis Diego Morales, Executive Secretary, Centre for Coordination for Natural Disaster Prevention in Central America; and Mr. Juan Manuel Uribe, National Directorate of Risk Mitigation and Disaster Preparedness, Colombia.

17. After the presentations, statements were made by the representatives of Saudi Arabia, China, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Armenia and Bolivia.

18. The Director for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Relief Coordination of the Pan American Health Organization then outlined points made in the various presentations.

III. PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR INTERFACE

(Agenda item 9 (b))

19. The Main Committee considered agenda item 9 (b) at its 1st meeting, on 25 May 1994, and had before it a document entitled "From disaster management to sustainable development: how the public sector, private sector and voluntary organizations can work together" (A/CONF.172/12 and Add.1).

20. An introductory statement was made by Dr. Fabrizio Bassani, Director, Division of Emergency and Humanitarian Action, World Health Organization.

21. Presentations were then made by the following panelists: Professor Mohammed M. Mahfouz, Chairman, Public Services Committee of the Shoura (Senate) Assembly and former Minister of Health (Egypt); Mr. Carlo Presenti, Head, National Department for Technical Services, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Italy); Ms. Julia Taft, President and Chief Executive Officer, Interaction USA; Mr. Albert Tevoedjre, President, Centre Africain de Prospectives Sociales; Ms. Marcia Feria-Miranda, Specialist, Social Marketing and Partnership Development for Disaster Management; Dr. Gerhard Berz, Head, Geoscience Research Group, Munich Reinsurance Company; and Mr. R. Natarajan, President, Union Carbide Office for Asia.

22. A presentation was also made by the commentator of the session, Mr. Kevin Lyonette, Director, Conservation Policy, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF International).

23. After the presentations, questions were posed by the representatives of India, Samoa, Canada, the Central African Republic, Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia.

24. The observer for the Civil Protection Voluntary Service-Caserta (Youth Voluntary Service of Italy), a non-governmental organization, also posed questions.

25. An expert from the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre and an expert from the European University Centre for Cultural Heritage (Ravello Centre) also posed questions.

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Agenda item 11

OUTCOME OF THE CONFERENCE, INCLUDING A PLAN OF ACTION FOR NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION

Report of the Main Committee

1. The Main Committee considered the item at its 4th meeting, on 26 May 1994.

2. At the same meeting, the Main Committee heard a report by H.E. Mr. Daniel D. C. Don Nanjira (Kenya), Chairman of the Open-ended Drafting Group of the Main Committee, in which he introduced the draft Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for natural disaster prevention, preparedness and mitigation, as contained in document A/CONF.172/L.2 and Corr.1, and the draft Yokohama Message, as contained in document A/CONF.172/L.7.

2. Also at the same meeting, the Main Committee decided to transmit the draft Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World and the draft Yokohama Message to the Plenary of the Conference for its consideration and adoption.

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